



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Nigerian National Sentenced in Identity Fraud Scheme

A 20-year-old Nigerian national was sentenced to six months in jail after pleading guilty to one count each of possession of a credit card re-encoder or skimming device, and making a false statement to a police officer. Daniel Ola Adedayo, of the 12000 block of Somerset Avenue in Princess Anne was sentenced in Howard County Circuit Court this morning.

Assistant State's Attorney Justin M. Lake told the court that police were dispatched to the Turf Valley Resort on May 24 after a Pennsylvania man called to report the discovery that his credit card had been fraudulently used to rent three hotel rooms. The victim was in possession of his card but Turf Valley reported that the room had been paid for by physically swiping another credit card with the victim's name and credit card number at the terminal. The occupants of two of the rooms had checked out but the third room was still being used by a guest though it was unoccupied.

Police searched the room after obtaining a search and seizure warrant where they discovered a Nigerian passport, a credit card/debit card encoder, and blank credit card/debit card stock. Turf Valley employees notified police on May 25 that two individuals had returned to the resort to retrieve items from the room. Police made a traffic stop of their car on eastbound U.S. Route 40 after they departed. Lake told the court that during questioning, Adedayo repeatedly gave police a false name.

At the conclusion of the hearing retired Howard County Circuit Court Judge Raymond J. Kane sentenced Adedayo to 364 days in jail, suspending all but six months for possession of the encoding device. The judge also sentenced Adedayo to a consecutive six-month sentence, fully suspended, for giving a false statement to a police officer.

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